

**PROGRAM CHARTER
FOR
COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES**

Program Manager: Douglas Brown
Ecosystem Goal Team Lead: Steve Murawski

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.

Coastal counties are home to 53% of the U.S. population, but make up only 17% of the land area. They are the most densely populated areas, averaging 300 people per square mile compared with 98 in non-coastal counties. Coastal population density increased 28% from 1980 to 2000, and is expected to increase another 4% by 2008. Three quarters of the American economy is generated in coastal states. Nearly half comes from the 25% of the land that is the coastal watershed counties, and more than 11% of the economy comes from the 4% of the land in the near shore area. At the same time, coastal areas contain sensitive habitats that are vital to the production of fish and shellfish, and provide critical ecological functions such as groundwater recharge and control of flooding and erosion.

The goal of the Coastal and Marine Resources Program (CMRP) is to promote the health and productivity of coastal and marine ecosystems by taking a comprehensive approach to balancing protection and use of the ecosystems, from coastal watersheds to the oceans. Management and conservation efforts are implemented at a range of geographic scales in partnership with state and local partners, and through coordination with a range of domestic and international partners at all levels of government. Through the CMRP, NOAA has unique partnerships with states to manage the Nation's coastal and marine resources: States contribute resources and authorities to the comprehensive management of the nation's coastal areas, thereby leveraging NOAA investments and contributing to national objectives. CMRP supports management actions designed to improve the long-term resilience of communities and ecosystems, thereby addressing stresses caused by either specific hazards or from the cumulative impacts of long-term changes.

Through the CMRP, NOAA works with partners to manage multiple uses of the coastal and marine environment to ensure the long-term health and economic benefits of these ecosystems. The CMRP provides decision-makers with sound science and other information on which to base day-to-day decisions about the use and protection of these areas. The CMRP also delivers tools, technology, and training to resource managers to facilitate effective decision-making. CMRP provides the bridge for linking conservation planning and economic development with hazards mitigation. Through the

CMRP, NOAA increases knowledge and awareness about coastal and marine ecosystems so that the public can act as stewards of coastal and marine areas.

The CMRP carries out its activities in U.S. coastal states and territories, in state and federal waters, and through providing assistance or expertise to other countries and international organizations. The CMRP is responsible for executing the requirements of the Coastal Zone Management Act, National Marine Sanctuaries Act, Marine Protected Areas Executive Order, and the President's Executive Order on Ocean Policy, among other requirements.

The CMRP directly supports the objectives of NOAA's Ecosystem Goal, and contributes to NOAA's goals to ensure safe and efficient commerce and transportation and serve society's needs for weather and water information.

Additional information about the CMRP can be found:

On the CMRP website at: <https://inside.nos.noaa.gov/cmvp/> (for NOAA employees only)

On the websites of CMRP components:

- Coastal Zone Management Program – www.coastalmanagement.noaa.gov
- National Estuarine Research Reserve System – www.nerrs.noaa.gov
- National Marine Sanctuaries Program – www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov
- Marine Protected Areas Center – www.mpa.gov
- Coastal Services Center – www.csc.noaa.gov
- Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology – www.ciceet.unh.edu
- Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program – www.coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/landconservation.html

2. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

A. Requirement Drivers

CMRP has primary implementing responsibility for the following requirements

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Legislative:

- Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1451 *et seq.*), which authorizes the NOS Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management and the NOS Estuarine Reserves Division.
- National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1431 *et seq.*), which authorizes the NOS Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.

- FY 2002 Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, The Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriation Act (16 USC 1456d - Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program), which authorizes the NOS Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program.

Executive:

- Executive Order 13158 – Marine Protected Areas, which directs the activities of the NOAA Marine Protected Areas Center.
- Executive Order 13178 – NW Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, and Executive Order 13196 – Amendment to Executive Order 13178, which established the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve (which will be designated as a National Marine Sanctuary) and makes permanent Reserve Preservation Areas.
- U.S. Ocean Action Plan – Provides direction for ocean policy and identifies specific actions for the future, including actions assigned to the CMRP for implementation.
- Memorandum of Understanding between NOAA and the University of New Hampshire Concerning the Establishment of a Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET) – (1997, amended in 2000), which establishes and governs the Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology.

The CMRP also provides essential services for carrying out other legislative and executive requirement drivers, as well as memoranda of agreement, such as the Coral Reef Conservation Act, Oil Pollution Act and international agreements. CMRP is also responsible for executing its mission requirements in a manner consistent with a range of federal statutes, regulations, Executive Orders and OMB Circulars, such as the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act (ESA), Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and National Historic Preservation Act. These requirement drivers are included in Appendix A (Summary of CMRP Requirement Drivers).

B. Mission requirements:

The Coastal and Marine Resources Program has numerous mission requirements specified by its drivers, particularly from those for which it has primary implementing responsibility. A summary of those requirements is provided below. An overview of these requirements is provided in Appendix B. Detailed requirements for the CMRP are presented in Appendix C.

- Assist 35 coastal states in implementing comprehensive coastal management programs to preserve, protect, develop, and where possible, restore the resources of the Nation's coastal zone. (CZMA)
- Support states in developing and implementing management measures to

address the impacts of six major sources of polluted runoff to coastal waters based on best on available, economically achievable technology. (CZMA)

- Support states in developing and implementing a biogeographically representative system of National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERR) that provide stable platforms for coordinated long-term research, monitoring, education and stewardship in support of effective coastal management. (CZMA)
- Designate as national marine sanctuaries areas of the marine environment that are of special national significance and provide for comprehensive and coordinated conservation and management of these marine areas to maintain natural biological communities, to support research and monitoring, and enhance public understanding of their resources. (NMSA)
- Strengthen the management, protection, and conservation of existing marine protected areas (MPAs) by maintaining a list of these areas, conducting biological and socio-economic assessments, improving coordination and information-sharing with Federal and state agencies, and identifying gaps in a scientifically based, comprehensive national system of MPAs representing diverse U.S. marine ecosystems. (Executive Order 13158)
- Establish a Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program for the purpose of protecting important coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical, or aesthetic values or that are threatened by conversion. (FY 2002 Appropriations Act)
- Conduct a coordinated program of technical assistance and management-oriented research in consultation with coastal states to deliver research results, scientific data and information, innovative environmental technologies, and management tools and techniques to domestic and international coastal resource decision-makers. (CZMA)
- Develop, in cooperation with all levels of government and the private sector, a coordinated National Spatial Data Infrastructure and Federal geographic data standards that support public and private sector development and application of geospatial data. (E.O. 12906 and OMB Circular A-16)
- Implement key commitments specified in the *U.S. Ocean Action Plan* for which the CMRP has lead responsibility or to which it directly contributes, including: designation of a new CZM program and marine sanctuary; better integration of existing marine managed areas; support for state-based regional partnerships; establishment of national monitoring and observation networks; and cooperative conservation within watersheds; among others. (U.S. Ocean Action Plan)

3. LINKS TO THE NOAA STRATEGIC PLAN

A. Goal Outcomes.

The CMRP supports the following Ecosystem goal-level outcomes:

- Healthy and productive coastal and marine ecosystems that benefit society
- A well-informed public that acts as a steward of coastal and marine ecosystems.

B. Goal Performance Objectives.

The CMRP supports the following Ecosystem goal-level objectives:

- Increase number of regional coastal and marine ecosystems delineated with approved indicators of ecological health and socioeconomic benefits that are monitored and understood.
- Increase number of habitat acres conserved or restored.
- Increase portion of population that is knowledgeable of and acting as stewards for coastal and marine ecosystems.
- Increase number of coastal communities incorporating ecosystem and sustainable development principles into planning and management.

C. Goal Strategies.

The CMRP supports the following Ecosystem goal-level strategies:

- Engage and collaborate with our partners to achieve regional objectives by delineating regional ecosystems, promoting partnerships at the ecosystem level, and implementing strategies to improve regional ecosystem health.

The CMRP engages Federal, state and local partners in implementing management and conservation efforts at a range of geographic scales, both political and ecological. The CMRP takes a comprehensive approach to balancing protection and use of these ecosystems, from coastal watersheds to the oceans. The CMRP also facilitates or participates in state or regional efforts to identify indicators that are relevant to the geographic scale, physical and ecological characteristics, and management issues within that area. Building on its capabilities, the CMRP plays a significant role in advancing ecosystem approaches on a regional basis, integrating across a range of issues affecting coastal and marine ecosystems. CMRP supports community and ecosystem resilience and provides a bridge for linking conservation planning and economic development with hazards mitigation activities.

- Manage uses of ecosystems by applying scientifically sound observations,

assessments, and research findings to ensure the sustainable use of resources and to balance competing uses of coastal and marine ecosystems.

The CMRP conducts research directly applicable to coastal resource management, including monitoring, habitat assessment and land use change, and development, testing and transfer of new tools, technologies and best management practices for use in coastal decision-making. The CMRP also synthesizes and delivers research results so that they can be readily applied by resource decision-makers.

- Improve resource management by advancing our understanding of ecosystems through better simulation and predictive models. Build and advance the capabilities of an ecological component of the NOAA global environmental observing system to monitor, assess, and predict national and regional ecosystem health, as well as to gather information consistent with established social and economic indicators.

In addition to working with partners to identify relevant ecological and socio-economic indicators, the CMRP has capabilities to monitor and assesses these indicators through the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, National Marine Sanctuary Program, Coastal Change Analysis Program and socio-economic syntheses. CMRP also leads an effort to identify coastal indicators that are currently being tracked by Federal, state and regional entities.

- Develop coordinated regional and national outreach and education efforts to improve public understanding and involvement in stewardship of coastal and marine ecosystems.

The CMRP is one of the few programs in NOAA mandated to conduct education, outreach and technical assistance, which it does under the CZMA, National Marine Sanctuaries Act and Marine Protected Areas Executive Order. CMRP builds the capacity to address non-point source pollution by providing training and information to coastal communities and managers.

- Engage in technological and scientific exchange with our domestic and international partners to protect, restore, and manage marine resources within and beyond the Nation's borders.

Through the Coastal Zone Management Act, National Marine Sanctuaries Act and Marine Protected Areas Executive Order, the CMRP has unique mandates to balance competing uses of the coastal and marine environment and to ensure that decision-makers and the public have sound science on which to base day-to-day decisions about the use and protection of these areas. To that end, the CMRP, in coordination with domestic and international partners: conducts

science directly applicable to coastal resource management; develops, tests and transfers new tools, technologies and best management practices for use in coastal decision-making; and fosters exchange of information with the scientific and international community.

4. PROGRAM OUTCOMES

The CMRP strives to achieve the following long-term outcomes:

- Priority coastal land and water habitats are protected, restored, or enhanced to promote healthy and productive coastal ecosystems.
- The quality of ocean, coastal and Great Lakes waters are improved by the reduction of pollution from vessels and land-based sources.
- Coastal development is managed to promote ecosystem health and provide economic and societal benefits.
- The coastal population has increased knowledge about coastal and marine ecosystems to make informed decisions.

CMRP activities support these outcomes, which directly support attainment of the NOAA Ecosystem Goal to “Protect, Restore, and Manage the Use of Coastal and Ocean Resources through an Ecosystem Approach to Management.”

5. PROGRAM ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

This program is established and managed with the procedures established in the NOAA Business Operations Manual (BOM). Responsibilities of the Program Manager are described in the BOM. Responsibilities of other major participants are summarized below:

A. Participating Line Offices, Staff Office and Council Responsibilities:

- **National Ocean Service** – The National Ocean Service (NOS) is responsible for providing federal oversight and assistance to state, local and regional partners to achieve balanced use and protection of coastal resources. Within the CMRP, NOS has direct responsibility for implementing the following program components: Coastal Zone Management Program; National Estuarine Research Reserve System; National Marine Sanctuary Program; Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program; Marine Protected Areas Center; Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program; Coastal Services Center; and the Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET). NOS also supports the CMRP through the socio-economic and other expertise of the NOS Special Projects Office and bilateral and multi-lateral information exchange provided by the International Programs Office. NOS also

houses the Coral Reef Matrix program, which has capabilities that are closely related to coastal and marine resource management.

- **Oceanic and Atmospheric Research** – OAR implements funding for the Gulf of Maine Council, which is assigned to the CMRP for execution. Though not a participant in the CMRP, OAR's National Sea Grant College Program supports the delivery of outreach and education, applied research, and technical assistance to coastal resource managers through affiliated universities and their extension network. The CMRP and ERP are working together to coordinate these activities.
- **National Marine Fisheries Service** – NMFS works with the CMRP to achieve effective management of coastal and marine protected areas as habitat for commercial and recreational fish, and other living marine resources. NMFS also implements responsibilities supportive of achieving integration within coastal and marine resources, such as habitat conservation and restoration.
- **NOAA and Dept. of Commerce General Counsel** – NOAA and DOC attorney-advisors are responsible for providing legal review and advice related to CMRP activities. Specifically, the CMRP relies on: NOAA's General Counsel for Ocean Services for review of rules, coastal program changes and consistency decisions, approvals of new programs and designation of new sites; DoC's Financial Assistance Law Division (FALD) and others for interpretation and review of federal financial (e.g., grant making) guidance; General Counsel for Natural Resources (GCNR) for implementing the natural resource damage assessment provisions of the NMSA, and General Counsel for Enforcement and Litigation (GCEL) for implementing the enforcement provisions of the NMSA.
- **NOAA Grants Management Division** – NOAA's Grants Management Division (GMD) is responsible for reviewing and awarding financial assistance awards to state partners. The CMRP executes approximately 125-180 new grants or cooperative agreements each year, in addition to managing awards issued in previous fiscal years. GMD is also responsible for reviewing and approving changes to awards issued in previous fiscal years.
- **NOAA Facilities and Construction Office** – NOAA's facilities and construction office (FCO) is responsible for assisting program offices in carrying out the planning, design and execution of construction, renovation, and acquisition projects, and negotiating leases for real estate, particularly for the National Marine Sanctuary Program and Coastal Services Center. The FCO is also responsible for reviewing acquisition and construction projects carried out by partners in state or local governments, including review of design standards, construction materials, cost estimates and real estate appraisals, particularly for

the National Estuarine Research Reserve System and Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program.

- **NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (NMAO)** – NMAO is responsible for operating and maintaining NOAA ships and aircraft and for developing guidelines and policies that govern the chartering of such platforms by programs within the CMRP. NMAO is also responsible for developing and establishing administrative standards for the safe operation and maintenance of small boats, which are used by programs within the CMRP.
- **NOAA Office for Law Enforcement (OLE)** – The OLE is responsible for enforcement of NOAA regulations, including in the national marine sanctuaries. OLE meets CMRP enforcement needs in cooperation with partners at other federal, state, and local agencies, including US Coast Guard and cross-deputized state coastal and marine resource law enforcement personnel
- **NOAA Education Council** – The Education Council serves as a forum in NOAA for the discussion of ideas and proposals for NOAA-wide education and outreach activities and priorities and makes recommendations to NOAA management on all aspects of NOAA's educational activities. CMRP coordinates closely with the Education Council in the design and implementation of our mandated education activities.
- **NOAA Ocean Council** – The NOAA Ocean Council serves as the principal advisory body to the Administrator and focal point for the agency's ocean activities and interests. CMRP provides input for developing coastal and ocean resource management policy and applies NOC guidance to the development and implementation of our responsibilities, especially those related to IOOS and the U.S. Ocean Action Plan.
- **NOAA Observing Systems Council** – The NOAA Observing Systems Council serves as the principal advisory body to the Administrator and focal point for the agency's observing system activities and interests. CMRP provides input to and applies guidance from the Council with regards to observational and data management activities (especially for system wide monitoring efforts and coastal change analysis), priorities, and investment strategies.

B. External Agency/Organization Responsibilities:

- **State agencies** – Coastal state partners are responsible for implementing the 34 approved state coastal management programs and 26 National Estuarine Research Reserves around the nation under cooperative agreements with NOAA, and also match Federal funds to support these programs. Most coastal

states are also involved directly or indirectly in the implementation of the National Marine Sanctuary Program and Marine Protected Areas Executive Order.

- **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** – EPA jointly administers the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program with NOAA, including responsibility for reviewing and approving state plans for controlling polluted runoff into coastal waters.
- **Department of the Interior (DoI)** – NOAA and DoI have joint responsibility for carrying out the Marine Protected Areas Executive Order (E.O. 13158). In addition, the U.S. Geological Survey provides a range of high-quality geospatial data and information using consistent standards, including *The National Map*, which supports decision-making by resource managers and the public.
- **Department of Homeland Security/U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)** – The U.S. Coast Guard, as well as state coastal and marine resource law enforcement personnel, assist the CMRP in enforcing NOAA laws and regulations in state and Federal waters, particularly under the National Marine Sanctuary Act.
- **International Partners** – International governmental partners have missions and responsibilities for managing coastal and territorial seas outside the United States. As such, many have developed considerable scientific and management expertise that can be leveraged with US investments to foster improved coastal management capabilities world-wide. Other international partners, such as nongovernmental organizations, have responsibilities to protect and conserve marine resources and provide technical advice to the international community on projects.

6. END USERS OR BENEFICIARIES OF PROGRAM

- **Coastal resource managers** – The program awards grants to state coastal zone management programs and National Estuarine Research Reserves and, working with numerous partners, manages the National Marine Sanctuaries. CMRP provides tools and information to support resilience communities and ecosystems.
- **State and local governments** – The program provides financial and technical assistance to state agencies and local communities to carry out their responsibilities under the CZMA and better manage multiple uses of coastal areas. CMRP provides tools and information that build the capacity of local decision makers to address land use and non point source pollution.
- **Tribes** – The program works with tribes and Pacific Islanders to support their role in managing coastal and marine resources.
- **Other federal agencies** – The program works with numerous federal agencies

to coordinate activities conducted within or related to management of coastal and ocean areas.

- **Academia** –The program provides funding and opportunities for researchers to conduct coastal and estuarine research and technology development, as well as funding for graduate research fellowships.
- **Educators and Students** - The program conducts education and training activities to provide coastal and marine science curricula for the classroom, and offers hands-on educational experiences for students and teachers in the field at “living classrooms”.
- **General public** – The program conducts outreach activities to increase the public’s understanding of the coasts and oceans and provides opportunities for recreational enjoyment of the coast.
- **International partners** – The program supports international information exchange and technical assistance to numerous countries through international agreements, particularly in the Caribbean region and Asia (Vietnam and China).
- **Recreational industry** – The program provides opportunities for environmentally-compatible recreational use of the coast and marine waters, such as beach or boat access sites, diving, and recreational fishing, via programs protecting coastal and marine resources and through outreach activities.
- **Commercial fishing industry**- The program protects and restores the habitat and water quality needed by living marine resources, thereby aiding commercial fish stocks.
- **Marine transportation industry** – The program provides information on sensitive coastal and marine areas to the marine transportation industry to prevent groundings or other damage from commercial and recreational vessel traffic.

Appendix A: CMRP REQUIREMENT DRIVERS –

CMRP has primary implementing responsibility for the following requirement drivers -

- Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1451 *et seq.*)
- National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C. 1431 *et seq.*)
- FY 2002 Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, The Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriation Act (16 USC 1456d - Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program)
- Executive Order 13158 – Marine Protected Areas
- Executive Order 13178 – NW Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, and Executive Order 13196 – Amendment to Executive Order 13178
- Executive Order 13366 – Committee on Ocean Policy, and U.S. Ocean Action Plan
- Memorandum of Understanding between NOAA and the University of New Hampshire Concerning the Establishment of a Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET) – (1997, amended in 2000)

The CMRP also plays an important role in carrying out other legislative and executive requirement drivers, as well as memoranda of agreement. CMRP is also responsible for executing its mission requirements in a manner consistent with a range of federal statutes, regulations, Executive Orders and OMB Circulars.

Other Legislative Requirement Drivers -

- Clean Water Act of 1977 (CWA)
- Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000
- Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA)
- National Environmental Policy Act
- National Historic Preservation Act
- Inland Flood Forecasting and Warning System Act of 2002

Other Executive Requirement Drivers -

- Executive Order 13089 – Coral Reef Protection
- Execution Order 13352 – Facilitation of Cooperative Conservation
- Executive Order 12906 – Coordinating Geographic Data Acquisition and Access: The National Spatial Data Infrastructure and the Federal Geographic Data Committee
- OMB Circular A-16 – Coordination of Geographic Information and Related Spatial Data Activities

Significant Memoranda of Agreement or Bilateral/multilateral International Agreements -

- Memorandum of Understanding between NOAA and the University of New Hampshire Concerning the Establishment of a Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET) – (1997, amended in 2000)
- Memorandum of Agreement with EPA regarding Smart Growth
- Marine and Fisheries Protocol of the U.S.-China Science and Technology Agreement (1979)
- NOAA-Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MOMAF) Arrangement of Scientific and Technical Cooperation in the Field of Integrated Coastal and Ocean Resources Management (2000) and the associated Joint Project Agreement (2001)
- Agreement Between the NOS/NOAA/DOC and the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community for Technical Cooperation in Resource Management and Development (2003)
- North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, Commission on Environmental Cooperation, Conservation of Biodiversity

Appendix B. MISSION REQUIREMENTS DERIVED FROM REQUIREMENT DRIVERS

The Coastal and Marine Resources Program has numerous mission requirements specified by its drivers, particularly from those for which it has primary implementing responsibility (listed below).

- **Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA), as amended** – *“The Congress finds and declares that it is the national policy to preserve, protect, develop, and where possible, restore or enhance, the resources of the Nation’s coastal zone for this and succeeding generations; to encourage and assist the state to exercise effectively their responsibilities in the coastal zone through the development and implementation of management programs to achieve wise use of the land and water resources of the coastal zone, giving full consideration to ecological, cultural, historic and esthetic values as well as the needs for compatible economic development; to encourage the preparation of special area management plans...; to encourage coordination and cooperation with and among the appropriate Federal, state and local agencies, and international organizations where appropriate...; and to respond to changing circumstances affecting the coastal environment,” among other purposes.*

The Coastal Zone Management Act and its implementing regulations contains detailed requirements for the development, approval, and implementation of state coastal zone management program and National Estuarine Research Reserves at the state and local level, including many specific requirements that the Secretary of Commerce must meet and language mandating how these requirements will be met. The CZMA contains requirements for: approving and implement state coastal management programs; reviewing changes to state programs; implementing resource management improvements; enhancing existing state management programs; approving and implementing state coastal nonpoint pollution control programs; designating and implementing a representative system of National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERRS); conducting interagency coordination/cooperation; ensuring consistency of federal projects/mediating disputes; reviewing performance of CZMA-funded programs; acquiring land for long-term management of NERRS; restoring habitat to preserve sensitive resources in NERRS; constructing or acquiring facilities for NERRS; conducting coordinated research on coastal management issues and promoting use of the NERRS for research; conducting system-wide monitoring and site profiles for NERRS; conducting education and interpretive activities to enhance public understanding of estuaries; selecting and delivering awards for excellence in coastal management; preparing and submitting biennial report to Congress on the CZMA; conducting technical assistance and delivering research results to coastal states; providing information to state coastal management agencies; and maintaining records for financial assistance audits.

Section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990 (CZARA) - *“...Each state for which a management program has been approved pursuant to section 306 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 shall prepare and submit to the Secretary [of Commerce] and [EPA] Administrator a Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program for approval pursuant to this section. The purpose of the program shall be to develop and implement management measures for nonpoint source pollution to restore and protect coastal waters, working in close conjunction with other State and local authorities.”*

Section 6217 requires states to implement management measures based on best available, economically achievable technology, to address the impacts of six major sources of nonpoint pollution to coastal waters: (1) agriculture, (2) forestry, (3) urban, (4) marinas and recreational boating, (5) hydromodification, and (6) wetlands and riparian areas. The program must include enforceable policies and mechanisms to ensure implementation of the measures. The program is jointly administered at the federal level by NOAA and the Environmental Protection Agency and at the state level by coastal management and water quality agencies. Detailed requirements are contained in guidelines for this program.

- **FY 2002 Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, The Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriation Act (16 USC 1456d)** – *“The Secretary shall establish a Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program, for the purpose of protecting important coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical, or aesthetic values, or that are threatened by conversion from their natural or recreational state to other uses.”*

Detailed requirements for conducting this program are outlined in program guidelines that were published in the Federal Register in June 2003.

- **National Marine Sanctuaries Act** – The purposes and policies of the Act are – *“to identify and designate as national marine sanctuaries areas of the marine environment which are of special national significance and to manage these areas as the National Marine Sanctuary System; to provide authority for comprehensive and coordinated conservation and management of these marine areas....; to maintain the natural biological communities in the marine sanctuaries....; to enhance public awareness, understanding, appreciation, and wise and sustainable use of the marine environment...;to support, promote, and coordinate scientific research on, and long-term monitoring of, the resources of these marine areas; to facilitate to the extent compatible with the primary objective of resource protection, all public and private uses of the resources not prohibited pursuant to other authorities; to develop and implement coordinated plans for the protection and management of these areas with appropriate Federal agencies, State and local governments, Native American tribes....; to create models of, and incentives for, ways to conserve and manage these areas,*

including the application of innovative management techniques; and to cooperate with global programs encouraging conservation of marine resources.”

The National Marine Sanctuaries Act contains detailed requirements for the designation and management of national marine sanctuaries, including sanctuary designation standards and procedures; provisions for prohibited activities, a permitting process and enforcement authorities; guidance on research, monitoring and education; authority for assessment of damages for injury to sanctuary resources; creation of sanctuary advisory councils; and creation of a national foundation to enhance support for the National Marine Sanctuary Program.

- **Executive Order 13158, Marine Protected Areas** – *“The purpose of this order is to, consistent with domestic and international law: (a) strengthen the management, protection, and conservation of existing marine protected areas and establish new or expanded MPAs; (b) develop a scientifically based, comprehensive national system of MPAs representing diverse U.S. marine ecosystems, and the Nation’s natural and cultural resources; and (c) avoid causing harm to MPAs through federally conducted, approved, or funded activities.”...“Each Federal agency whose authorities provide for the establishment or management of MPAs shall take appropriate actions to enhance or expand protection of existing MPAs and establish or recommend, as appropriate, new MPAs. Agencies implementing this section shall consult with the agencies identified in subsection 4(a) of this order, consistent with existing requirements.”*

The Executive Order contains detailed requirements for conducting an inventory of state and Federal marine protected areas, maintaining a website for tools and information related to managing marine protected areas, and coordinating with Federal agencies to implement the Executive Order.

- **Executive Orders 13178 and 13196, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve** – *“The purpose of this Executive Order is to ensure the comprehensive, strong, and lasting protection of the coral reef ecosystem and related marine resources and species of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. There is hereby established a coral reef ecosystem reserve...approximately 1,200 nautical miles long and 100 nm wide... The Reserve shall be managed using available science and applying a precautionary approach with resource protection favored... The Secretary shall manage the Reserve under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act... The Secretary shall develop an operations plan directed at priority issues and actions.” E.O. 13196, “The purpose of this Executive Order is to amend E.O. 13178, and to make permanent the conservation measures and Reserve Preservation Areas, as modified. With this action, the establishment of the Reserve under the Act...is complete.”*

- **Executive Order 13366, Committee on Ocean Policy, and U.S. Ocean Action Plan** – *“The President further directs the executive branch agencies to facilitate, as appropriate, coordination and consultation regarding ocean-related matters among Federal, State, Tribal, local governments, the private sector, foreign governments, and international organizations.” The intent of the U.S. Ocean Action Plan is “to identify immediate, short-term actions that provide direction for ocean policy and highlight and also outline additional long-term actions for the future.”*

The *U.S. Ocean Action Plan* outlines specific actions for which the CMRP has lead responsibility for implementation, as well as other actions which the CMRP directly supports. Programs within the CMRP have been tasked with: creating a national water quality monitoring network; conducting community workshops to improve watershed protection; supporting an integrated approach to oceans management and reduction of land-based pollution; coordinating and better integrating existing networks of marine managed areas; protecting the Northwest Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve; supporting reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act; supporting regional partnerships in the Gulf of Mexico and the Great Lakes; adopting an Ocean Parks Strategy; and reducing vessel pollution.

Appendix C: Detailed Mission Requirements for the Ecosystem/Coastal and Marine Resources Program

CZMA = Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972

CZARA = Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990

NMSA = National Marine Sanctuaries Act

Requirement Driver	Type of Driver	Mission Requirement	Specific Language
CZMA Section 306	Statute and Implementing Regulations	Approve and Implement State CZM Programs	The Secretary may make grants to any coastal state for the purpose of administering that state's management program (306.a). Before approving a program, the Secretary shall find that it meets all requirements listed in the Act (306.d) Programs should at least provide for - "protection of natural resources, including wetlands, floodplains, estuaries, beaches, dunes, barrier islands, coral reefs, and fish and wildlife and their habitat, within the coastal zone; management of coastal development to minimize the loss of life and property caused by improper development in flood prone, storm surge and erosion prone areas...and by destruction of natural protective features;...to improve, safeguard or restore the quality of coastal waters; give priority consideration to coastal dependent uses and orderly processes for siting major facilities...; public access to the coast for recreational purposes; assistance in the redevelopment of deteriorating urban waterfronts and ports...; coordination of procedures to expedite governmental decisionmaking...; etc." (303.2.A-K)

CZMA Section 306	Statute and Implementing Regulations	Review Changes to State CZM Programs	The State shall promptly notify the Secretary of any proposed amendment, modification, or other program change and submit it for the Secretary's approval. Within 30 days, the Secretary shall notify the State whether the Secretary approves or disapproves a program amendment, or whether the Secretary finds it is necessary to extend the review (306.e.2). The Secretary, after determining preliminary approval, may permit the State to expend funds awarded to begin implementing the proposed amendment or change. (306.e.3.A)
CZMA Section 306A	Statute and Program Guidelines	Implement Resource Management Improvements	The Secretary may make grants to assist states in meeting one or more of the following objectives: preservation or restoration of areas designated because of their conservation, recreational, ecological, or esthetic values, or contain coastal resources of national significance, or to restore and enhance shellfish production; redevelopment urban waterfront and ports; provision of public access; or development of a process to regulate and issue aquaculture permits (306.A.b).
CZMA Section 309	Statute and Implementing Regulations	Enhance Existing State CZM Programs	The Secretary may make grants to coastal states to provide funding for development and submission for Federal approval of program changes that support attainment of one or more coastal zone enhancement objectives...[and] for implementing program changes approved by the Secretary. (309.b) The Secretary shall evaluate and rank State proposals for coastal zone enhancement and make funding awards on those proposals (309.c). The Secretary shall ensure that decisions take into consideration the needs of proposing States and the public benefits of each proposal (309.d). If the Secretary finds that the State is not meeting grant commitments, the Secretary shall suspend the State's eligibility for further funding for at least one year (309.d).

CZARA Section 6217	Statute and Program Guidelines	Approve and Implement State Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Programs	Each state for which a management program has been approved pursuant to section 306 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 shall prepare and submit to the Secretary [of Commerce] and [EPA] Administrator a Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program for approval pursuant to this section. (6217.a) Each state program shall provide for implementation, at a minimum, of management measures in conformity with the guidance published under subsection (g)...and shall...identify land uses which may cause or contribute significantly to a degradation of coastal waters, identify critical coastal areas, and implement management measures. (6217.b) Within 6 months of submission of a Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program, the Secretary and Administrator shall jointly review the program (6217.c.1). If the [coastal nonpoint] program of a state is approved..., the State shall implement the program, including the management measures included in the program (6217.c).
CZMA Section 315	Statute and Implementing Regulations	Designate and Implement a Representative System of NERRs	CZMA 315 (b) The Secretary may designate an estuarine area as a NERR if – the Secretary finds that -- (A) the area is a representative estuarine ecosystem that is suitable for long-term research and contributes to the biogeographic and typological balance of the system; (B) the law of the coastal state provides long-term protection for reserve resources to ensure a stable environment for research; C) designation will serve to enhance public awareness and understanding of estuarine areas and provide suitable opportunities for public education and interpretation.
CZMA Section 307	Statute and Implementing Regulations	Conduct Interagency Coordination/ Cooperation	In carrying out his functions and responsibilities under this title, the Secretary shall consult with, cooperate with, and, to the maximum extent practicable, coordinate his activities with other interested Federal agencies. (307(a))
CZMA Section 307	Statute and Implementing Regulations	Ensure Consistency of Federal projects/ Mediate Disputes	Each Federal agency activity within our outside the coastal zone that affects any land or water use or natural resource of the coastal zone shall be carried out in a manner which is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of approved State management programs. (307(c)) In case of serious disagreement between any Federal agency and a coastal state, the Secretary, with the cooperation of the Executive Office of the President, shall seek to mediate the differences involved in such disagreement (307.h.2)

CZMA Section 308	Statute	Manage the CZM Fund and Loan Portfolio	The Secretary shall establish and maintain a "Coastal Zone Management Fund." (308.b.1) The Fund shall be available for: regional management issues; demonstration projects, emergency grants to address unforeseen or disaster-related circumstances; awards recognizing excellence in coastal zone management; investigating and applying the public trust doctrine (308.b.2.B.i-iii). Loans [made under the CEIP] shall be repaid under authority of this subsection and the Secretary may issue regulations governing such repayment. If the Secretary finds that any coastal state or unit of local government is unable to meet its obligations,...the Secretary shall, after review of the information submitted by such State or unit,...(a) modify the terms and conditions of such loan, (b) refinance the loan, or (c) recommend to the Congress that legislation be enacted to forgive the loan. (308.a.1)
CZMA Sections 312 and 315	Statute and Implementing Regulations	Review Performance of CZMA-Funded Programs	The Secretary shall conduct a continuing review of the performance of coastal states with respect to coastal management. Each review shall include a written evaluation with an assessment and detailed findings (312.a). The Secretary shall periodically evaluate the operations and management of each national estuarine reserve, including education and interpretation activities, and the research being conducted within the reserve (315.f). The Secretary shall conduct the evaluation in an open and public manner, and provide full opportunity for public participation. The Secretary shall provide the public with at least 45 days' notice of such public meetings (312.b) The Secretary may suspend payment if the Secretary determines that the State is failing to adhere to the management program or the terms of any grant (312.c) The Secretary shall withdraw approval of the management program and financial assistance if the Secretary determines that the state has failed to take actions in order that suspension of financial assistance be withdrawn (312.d)
CZMA Section 315	Statute and Implementing Regulations	Acquire Land to Ensure Long-Term Management of NERRS	CZMA 315 (e): The Secretary may...make grants—(A) to a coastal state—(i) for the purposes of acquiring such lands and waters ... as are necessary to insure the appropriate long term management of an area as a NERR; (15 CFR 921.21) (a) Assistance is provided to aid the recipient prior to designation in: (1) acquiring a fee simple or less-than-fee simple real property areas to be included in the Reserve boundaries; (15 CFR 921.31) ... a coastal state may request a supplemental acquisition or development award ... for acquiring additional property interests identified in the management plan.

CZMA Section 315	Statute and Implementing Regulations	Restore Habitat to Preserve Sensitive Resources in NERRS	CZMA 315.b.2.A The Secretary may designate an estuarine areas as a national estuarine reserve if the area is representative estuarine ecosystem that is suitable for long term research... (15 CFR 921.1) (d) Habitat manipulation is prohibited except as specifically approved by NOAA as: (1) A restoration activity... or (2) an activity necessary for the protection of public health or the preservation other sensitive resources...
CZMA Section 315	Statute and Implementing Regulations	Construct or Acquire Facilities Needed to Operate and Manage a NERR	CZMA 315.e: The Secretary may...make grants – (A) to a coastal state—(ii) for purposes of operating or managing a NERR and constructing appropriate reserve facilities...; (15 CFR 921.21) Assistance is provided to aid the recipient prior to designation in: (1) Minor construction; (15 CFR 921.31) ... a coastal state may request a supplemental acquisition or development award ... for exhibit and facility construction
CZMA Section 315	Statute and Implementing Regulations	Conduct Coordinated Research on Coastal Management Issues	The Secretary shall develop guidelines for the conduct of research within the System that shall include a mechanism for identifying, and establishing priorities among, the coastal management issues that should be addressed through coordinated research within the system, establishment of common research principles and objectives; identification of uniform research methodologies which will ensure comparability of data, the broadest application of research results and maximum use of the System for research; etc. (315.c): The Secretary may make grants to any coastal State or public or private person for supporting research and monitoring within a reserve that are consistent with the research guidelines. (315.e)
CZMA Section 315	Statute and Implementing Regulations	Conduct System-Wide Monitoring and Site Profiles for NERRS	CZMA 315.c: The Secretary shall develop guidelines for the conduct of research within the System that shall include- (3) the identification of uniform research methodologies which will ensure comparability of data, the broadest application of research results; (CFR 15.921.6) NOAA may provide financial support for basic monitoring programs to support three major phases of a monitoring program: (1) Studies necessary to collect data for site description; (2) Development of a site profile; and (3) Formulation and implementation of a monitoring program.

CZMA Section 315	Statute	Promote Use of the NERRS for Research Purposes	The Secretary shall take such action as is necessary to promote and coordinate the use of the [NERR] System for research purposes, including requiring that NOAA, in conducting or supporting estuarine research, give priority consideration to research that uses the System, and consulting with other Federal and State agencies to promote use of one or more reserves within the System by such agencies when conducting estuarine research. (315.d)
CZMA Section 315	Statute	Conduct Education and Interpretive Activities	CZMA 315.b: The Secretary may designate an estuarine area as a NERR if – the Secretary finds that -- (D) Designation of the area as a reserve will serve to enhance public awareness and understanding of estuarine areas and provide suitable opportunities for public education and interpretation. CZMA 315.e: The Secretary may...make grants—(A) to a coastal state...for the purposes of conducting educational or interpretive activities.
CZMA Section 315	Statute	Enhance Public Understanding of Estuaries	CZMA 315.c.5 and d; (15 CFR 921.1) The goals of the program are to: (3) Enhance public awareness and understanding of estuarine areas
CZMA Section 313	Statute	Select and Deliver Awards for Excellence in Coastal Management	The Secretary shall promote excellence in coastal zone management by identifying and acknowledging outstanding accomplishments in the field." (313.a) The Secretary shall establish and execute appropriate awards, to be known as the 'Walter B. Jones Awards', including: cash awards, research grants, and public ceremonies to acknowledge such awards. (313.e.1-3)
CZMA Section 316	Statute	Prepare and Submit Biennial Report to Congress on CZMA	The Secretary shall consult with the Congress and shall prepare and submit to the President for transmittal to the Congress a report summarizing the administration of this title during each period of two consecutive fiscal years. (316.a) Note: Section 316(a) lists the specific elements that are required to be addressed in the report.

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CZMA Section 310	Statute and Implementing Regulations	Conduct Technical Assistance and Deliver Research Results to Coastal States	The Secretary shall conduct technical assistance and management-oriented research to support section 309 and appropriate to the furtherance of international cooperative efforts (310.a). The Secretary shall provide for the coordination of technical assistance (310.b.1). The Secretary shall make the results of research available to coastal states (310.b.2) The Secretary shall consult with coastal states regarding the program (310.b.3).
CZARA Section 6217	Statute and Program Guidelines	Provide Technical Assistance to States for Controlling Coastal Pollution	The Secretary and the Administrator shall provide technical assistance to coastal states and local governments in developing and implementing Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control programs. Such assistance shall include methods for assessing water quality impacts associated with coastal land uses, for assessing cumulative water quality effects of coastal development, and to predict and assess the effects of coastal land use management measures on coastal water quality and designated uses; and maintaining and revising an inventory of model ordinances and providing other assistance in identifying, developing and implementing pollution control measures. (6217(d)).
CZMA Section 315	Implementing Regulations	Provide Information to State Coastal Management Agencies	15 CFR 921.4: (a) The NERRS is intended to provide information to state agencies and other entities involved in addressing coastal management issues.
CZMA Sections 306, 309, 315, 318 and CZARA Section 6217	Statute	Maintain Records for Financial Assistance Audits	Each recipient of a grant under this title or of financial assistance under Section 308 shall keep such records as the Secretary shall prescribe, including records which fully disclose the amount and disposition of the funds received under the grant and of the proceeds of such assistance, the total cost of the project or undertaking supplied by other sources, and such other records as will facilitate an effective audit. (313.a)

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FY 2002 Appropriation Act (PL 107-77) (16 USC 1456d)	Statute and Report Language	Establish Program to Protect Important Coastal and Estuarine Areas	The Secretary shall establish a Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program to protect important coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation recreation, ecological, historical, or aesthetic values, or that are threatened by conversion. The Secretary shall issue guidelines for this program delineating grant criteria. (FY 02 Approps Act - PL 107-77; codified at 16 USC 1456d). The Secretary shall distribute these funds in consultation with managers' or Governors' representatives based on need and ability to leverage funds, and shall give priority to lands which can be effectively managed and protected and have significant ecological value. (FY 02 Approps Act - PL 107-77; codified at 16 USC 1456d).
FY 2002 and FY 2003 Appropriation (Conference Report)	Statute and Report Language	Design and Implement Performance Measures for CZMA	The conference agreement includes direction to NOAA to begin designing and implementing performance measures to validate the continuation of the Coastal Zone Management program.
Appropriation Act of 1997; MOU between NOAA and UNH (May 1997)	Statute and MOU	Develop and Transfer Innovative Coastal Technology	This MOU constitutes an agreement between NOAA and the University of New Hampshire (UNH) to establish and operate the Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET). CICEET will be a national center for enhanced cooperation and collaboration among academia, the private sector, and federal, state and local governments in developing and fostering the use of innovative environmental technologies and management approaches to the long-term conservation of the nation's coastal and estuarine ecosystems.
NMSA Sections 303 and 304	Statute & Implementing Regulations	Designate and Implement Marine Sanctuaries	The Secretary may designate marine sanctuaries based on a determination and findings in accordance with these detailed criteria and factors. The Secretary shall follow these procedures in proposing to designate a national marine sanctuary, including public notice and hearings, NEPA compliance, development of a draft management plan, and interagency cooperation. Requires review of management plans every 5 years.

NMSA Sections 306 and 307	Statute & Implementing Regulations	Conduct Enforcement	The Secretary shall conduct enforcement activities necessary to carry out the NMSA. Provides civil penalty authority. States the general restrictions that apply in all sanctuaries.
NMSA Section 309	Statute & Implementing Regulations	Conduct Research, Monitoring and Education	The Secretary shall conduct, support or coordinate research, monitoring, evaluation, and education consistent with the purposes and policies of this chapter. Research and monitoring include, among others, research on and long-term monitoring of sanctuary resources; exploration and mapping; socioeconomic assessment; and conservation, curation and public display of cultural, archeological, and historical resources of national marine sanctuaries. Education includes public awareness and understanding, education of teachers and students, as well as sanctuary users, development of interpretive facilities.
NMSA Section 312	Statute	Assess and Restore Damage to Sanctuary Resources	Any person who destroys, causes the loss of, or injures any sanctuary resource is liable to the US. The Secretary may undertake necessary actions to prevent or minimize loss or injury, and shall assess damages to sanctuary resources.
NMSA Section 315	Statute & Implementing Regulations	Establish Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils	The Secretary may establish one or more advisory councils to advise and make recommendations to the Secretary regarding designation and management.
NMSA Section 316	Statute	Enhance Support for Marine Sanctuaries	The Secretary may adopt a symbol for the National Marine Sanctuary Program, seek official sponsors, authorize creation of products that bear the symbol, solicit and collect monetary or in-kind contributions. The Secretary may enter into an agreement with a non-profit partner authorized to administer the sponsorship program.

E.O. 13178 and E.O. 13196	Executive Order	Establish and Manage NW Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve	Creates NW Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve. Includes conservation measures that restrict some activities throughout the Reserve, and establishes Reserve Preservation areas around certain islands, atolls and banks. The Secretary of Commerce shall manage the Reserve in accordance with the principal purpose of long-term conservation. E.O. 13196 made final the Reserve, conservation measures and Preservation Areas with some modifications, following a 30-day comment period.
E.O. 13158 Section 4 (a) & (e)	Executive Order	Conduct Biological and Socio-Economic Assessments	DOC and DOI shall coordinate and share information, tools and strategies, and provide guidance to enable and encourage the use of the following in carrying out each agency's respective authorities:...Integrated assessments of ecological linkages among MPAs...to provide synergistic benefits; ...a biological assessment of the minimum area where consumptive uses would be prohibited; ...an assessment of the threats and user conflicts affecting MPAs and appropriate, practical and equitable management solutions...; assessment of the economic effects of the preferred management solutions. E.O. 13158 Section 4(e) The goal of the MPA Center shall be...to develop a framework for a national system of MPAs.
E.O. 13158 Section 4(b)	Executive Order	Consult and Coordinate with States on MPAs	DOC and DOI shall consult with those States (and territories) that contain portions of the marine environment... and other entities, as appropriate, to promote coordination of Federal, State, territorial, and tribal actions to establish and manage MPAs. DOC and DOI shall seek expert advice and recommendations through an MPA Federal Advisory Committee.
E.O. 13158 Section 4(a)	Executive Order	Provide Information and Guidance on MPAs	DOC and DOI shall coordinate and share information, tools and strategies, and provide guidance to enable and encourage the use of (monitoring, assessment, management solutions, etc) to enhance and expand protection for existing and new MPAs; Section 4(8)d: DOC and DOI shall establish a website for information on MPAs.

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E.O. 13158 Section 4(a)	Executive Order	Improve Links with International MPA Programs	Identify opportunities to improve linkages with and technical assistance to, international marine protected area programs.
E.O. 13158 Section 4	Executive Order	Maintain a List of MPAs	DOC and DOI shall publish and maintain a list of MPAs that meet the definition of MPA for the purposes of this order.
E.O. 13158 Section 4(a)	Executive Order	MPA Monitoring and Resource Characterization	DOC and DOI shall coordinate and share information, tools and strategies, and provide guidance to enable and encourage the use of the following in carrying out each agency's respective authorities:....practical science-based criteria and protocols for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of MPAs.
E.O. 13158 Section 4(a)	Executive Order	Inventory of MPAs and Gap Analysis	DOC and DOI shall coordinate and share information, tools and strategies, and provide guidance to enable and encourage the use of the following in carrying out each agency's respective authorities:....science-based identification and prioritization of natural and cultural resources for additional protection.
E.O. 12906	Executive Order	Develop National Framework for Spatial Data	Requires the executive branch to develop, in cooperation with State, local, and tribal governments, and the private sector, a coordinated National Spatial Data Infrastructure to support public and private sector applications of geospatial data in such areas as transportation, community development, agriculture, emergency response, environmental management, and information technology.
OMB Circular A- 16	Executive Directive	Coordinate Geographic Information and Spatial Data	Provides direction for federal agencies that produce, maintain or use spatial data either directly or indirectly in the fulfillment of their mission. This Circular establishes a coordinated approach to electronically develop the National Spatial Data Infrastructure and establishes the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC). The document assigns responsibility to NOAA for the following NSDI spatial data themes: baseline (maritime) (co-lead), climate (co-lead), bathymetry, geodetic control, marine boundaries (co-lead), and shoreline.

E.O. 13366	Executive Directive	Committee on Ocean Policy	Establishes a Cabinet-level "Committee on Ocean Policy" to coordinate the activities of executive branch departments and agencies regarding ocean-related matters in an integrated and effective manner to advance the environmental and economic interests of present and future generations of Americans. The committee will advise the President and, as appropriate, agency heads on the establishment or implementation of policies concerning certain ocean-related matters. To support its work, the Committee established the following ocean governance structure consisting of subsidiary bodies that coordinate with existing structures: Interagency Committee on Ocean Science and Resource Management Integration, NSTC Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology, Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources, National Security Council Policy Coordinating Committee, and an expanded Ocean Research Advisory Panel.
E.O. 13352	Executive Directive	Facilitation of Cooperative Conservation	Calls for more "cooperative conservation" by the departments of Interior, Agriculture, Commerce and Defense, and the Environmental Protection Agency. The term was defined as any collaboration related "to use, enhancement and enjoyment of natural resources, protection of the environment, or both." The agencies were told that "to the extent permitted by law" and by available dollars, they must collaborate more with states, local and tribal governments, private for-profit and nonprofit groups, nongovernment associations and individuals. It also requires that government "takes appropriate account of and respects the interests of persons with ownership or other legally recognized interests in land and other natural resources."
U.S. Ocean Action Plan	Executive Directive	Build a Global Earth Observation Network, Including IOOS	Integrate U.S. Ocean Observing Efforts into the Global Earth Observing System of Systems. The First Annual Integrated Ocean Observing System Development Plan, released in January of 2005, makes recommendations to be used by federal agencies in establishing their priorities for contributing to the implementation, operation, and improvement of the initial IOOS. The Plan also addresses many recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, including those for establishing an IOOS with an emphasis on regional development, developing the capacity for ecosystem-based management, and linking IOOS data and information to applications.

U.S. Ocean Action Plan	Executive Directive	Create Water Quality Monitoring Network	The Committee on Ocean Policy will seek to develop a National Water Quality Monitoring Network. The network design will address and integrate watershed, coastal waters, and ocean monitoring based on common criteria and standards. It will provide information on water quality that, when interpreted with other information such as economic and land use information, will provide relevant scientific information to assist resource management and decision-making.
U.S. Ocean Action Plan	Executive Directive	Conduct Watershed Protection Workshops	Conduct a series of community workshops to improve integration and coordination of Coastal Zone Management Act, Clean Water Act, and other Federal programs in order to better assist States, Tribes and local governments in addressing priority nonpoint source pollution and land use issues in watersheds that have significant impacts on coastal resources.
U.S. Ocean Action Plan	Executive Directive	Integrate Approaches to Ocean Management	Support an integrated approach to oceans management and reduction of land-based pollution. The Administration will strive to reduce land-based pollution and provide new tools for effective stewardship of the ocean and its resources by integrating different approaches to oceans management.
U.S. Ocean Action Plan	Executive Directive	Coordinate and Better Integrate Existing Marine Managed Areas	The Administration proposes to further integrate the management of existing parks, refuges, sanctuaries and estuarine reserves in marine and coastal areas, complementing actions under Executive Order 13158 (Marine Protected Areas). Taking steps to integrate the existing marine managed areas network represents a new way to promote coordination of research, public education and management activities at neighboring areas.
U.S. Ocean Action Plan	Executive Directive	Approve and Implement State CZM programs	Complete state participation in Coastal Zone Management Program. NOAA will assist the State [of Illinois] with program development. The eventual approval of an Illinois Coastal Management Plan would complete the voluntary CZM system, with all eligible states and territories participating.
U.S. Ocean Action Plan	Executive Directive	Protect NW Hawaiian Islands Coral Reefs	The Administration continues to take steps to designate the Northwest Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, the largest marine protected area in the Western hemisphere, as the 14th National Marine Sanctuary.

U.S. Ocean Action Plan	Executive Directive	Support CZMA Reauthorization	The Administration will work with Congress, States, Tribal, and local governments on the reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act.
U.S. Ocean Action Plan	Executive Directive	Regional Approaches to Management	Support a regional partnership in the Gulf of Mexico to explore partnership opportunities with the five Gulf of Mexico states that have taken the lead in identifying key priorities in the Gulf of Mexico region.
U.S. Ocean Action Plan	Executive Directive	Regional Approaches to Management	Support Great Lakes Interagency Task Force and Great Lakes regional collaboration, pursuant to Executive Order, issued May 18, 2004. The newly created Great Lakes Regional Collaboration convenes the Great Lakes States, local communities, Tribes, regional bodies, and other interests in the Great Lakes region in partnership with the Federal Task Force to design a coordinated, comprehensive strategy to restore and protect the Great Lakes.
U.S. Ocean Action Plan	Executive Directive	Advance Ocean Stewardship through Cooperative Conservation	The Cooperative Conservation Executive Order directs Federal agencies that oversee environmental and natural resource policies and programs to promote cooperative conservation in full partnership with States, local governments, Tribes, and individuals. Local involvement by those closest to the resource and their communities is critical to ensuring successful, effective, and long-lasting conservation results.
U.S. Ocean Action Plan	Executive Directive	Adopt an Ocean Parks Strategy	Participate with the National Park Service in implementing the Ocean Parks Strategy, which includes characterizing marine species and habitats, evaluating and monitoring their condition, and increasing the understanding of how marine ecosystems function.
U.S. Ocean Action Plan	Executive Directive	Implement Administration's Wetlands Initiative	The Administration, through the combined efforts of the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture and Transportation, the EPA, the Army Corps of Engineers, and NOAA, will create, improve and protect at least three million wetland acres over the next five years.

U.S. Ocean Action Plan	Executive Directive	Reduce Vessel Pollution	The President is directing the Federal government to work toward achieving Clean Marina certification for all marinas that are currently operating in national parks, national wildlife refuges, national forests, and military bases in coastal States that participate in the Clean Marina program, a voluntary partnership with states and private marinas that promotes state certification of marinas that practice good environmental stewardship in areas such as pollution prevention and waste management.
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